

Proclamation

Presented

In Recognition of Benjamin Reginald Wood

WHEREAS, Benjamin Reginald “Ben” Wood was born in Honolulu on October 26, 1931, playing trumpet in the band at Robert Louis Stevenson Intermediate and continuing his musical training at Roosevelt High School, lettering in track and basketball and playing quarterback for the Rough Riders, competing against Don Ho, beginning a life-long friendship; and

WHEREAS, Ben Wood lettered in track and field at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa and played in the University band while developing an affection for the era’s beloved artists, seeing Genoa Keawe, the Richard Kauhi Quartette and others perform live at a variety of venues; and

WHEREAS, Ben Wood was drafted into service during the Korean War, beginning his distinguished career in journalism after being transferred to write for Stars and Stripes, eventually leaving the service to cover sports for a civilian newspaper; and

WHEREAS, Ben Wood returned to the islands in 1964, continuing his work in journalism and rising in three years from a part-time position at the Honolulu Star-Bulletin to a full-time appointment at the copy desk covering Waikīkī’s burgeoning entertainment scene before being promoted to Entertainment Editor, championing members of the Hawaiian Renaissance and covering the performances of Gabby Pahinui, Sonny Chillingworth, Eddie Kamae and other artists; and

WHEREAS, Ben Wood’s work covered major acts such as Ed Kenney, Hilo Hattie, the Brothers Cazimero, Arthur Lyman, Kristian Lei, Jimmy Borges and Anita Hall among many others, as well as contemporary superstars, including Elvis Presley, Tom Jones, Frank Sinatra, Michael Jackson, and a host of other performers; and

WHEREAS, Ben Wood became an essential contributor to entertainment in Hawai‘i, providing exposure to vital emerging acts for the newspaper’s readers through his columns “For Your Leisure” and “Ben Wood’s Hawai‘i,” chronicling decades of music in Hawai‘i with passion, empathy, and insight, becoming a trusted voice for readers; and


WHEREAS, Ben Wood retired from the Star Advertiser’s news desk but continues to share vibrant local stories with his readers of figures great and small in Hawai‘i through his “Wood Craft” column;

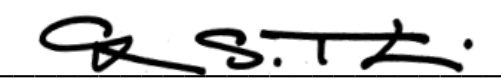
NOW, THEREFORE, I, NEIL ABERCROMBIE, Governor, and I, SHAN S. TSUTSUI, Lieutenant Governor for the State of Hawai‘i, do hereby proclaim October 26, 2014, as

“BEN WOOD DAY”

in Hawai‘i, and ask all citizens of the Aloha State to join us in celebrating his 50 years of contributions to journalism, music and entertainment in Hawai‘i, offering a unique chronicle of this scene, its people and its history.

DONE at the State Capitol, in Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai‘i, this twenty-fourth day of October, 2014.


NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor, State of Hawai‘i


SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor, State of Hawai‘i